

## AFFINITY GALLERY AT NADA MIAMI 2023

05 - 09 DECEMBER 2023

### JOSEPH AINA



Joseph Aina, Purple Mist (diptych), 2023, Oil on canvas, 59.1 x 47.2 in (each)

Making their debut in the United States, Affinity Gallery showcases the works of Nigerian-British artist, Joseph Aina in a solo presentation at the NADA Miami art fair from December 5th to 9th. The gallery makes its presentation as one of the eight selected galleries in the TD Bank Curated Spotlight section curated by Jenée-Daria Strand, Assistant Curator at Public Art Fund, and as the only African gallery presenting at the fair.

Joseph Aina's paintings capture the intricacies and untamed beauty of lush landscapes in Umbria Italy where he lived for six weeks as a resident of the Vannucci Artist Residency and created the works in this exhibition. With Italy being the birthplace of the Renaissance era at the start of the 14th century, juxtaposed with the explosive vivacity of nature, it is foreseeable that he would draw inspiration to create this body of work. The strength of his work lies in the simplification and shedding of centuries of obvious interpretations and instead, unravelling the nuanced beauty and poetry of self-discovery that can be found within nature.

“Much of my abstract work is built around landscapes and the peace that is found in nature. Both my residencies in Nigeria earlier in the year and now in Italy, helped me take time out of my studio practice to develop a deep understanding of the sceneries that influence my work” said the artist when asked about what lies behind his works at the fair.

Joseph Aina (b. 1996) is a Nigerian-British artist who lives in London but also works in Nigeria and Berlin. He received a degree in Law and Psychology from the University of Kent (2018). He then took a year out to develop his portfolio and pursue a Graduate Diploma at the Royal College of Art (RCA) where he graduated with an MA in Painting in 2022. After graduation, he moved to Nigeria for a residency to focus on expanding the fundamental elements of his practice. He has taken part in group exhibitions such as Layered Textures, DADA Gallery, London (2023), Things Left Unsaid, Affinity Gallery, Lagos (2023), Buffer, Guts Gallery, London (2022), Patterns of Identity, Prior Art Space, Barcelona (2022), The Life of Us, Prior Art Space, Berlin (2022), Pin Board, Changing Room, London (2022); and solo exhibitions, Looking For a Saviour, Prior Art Space, Berlin (2022) and The Movement Within, Berntson Bhattacharjee Gallery, London (2023). He is the recipient of the Student Scholarship Award at the RCA and was shortlisted for the Valerie Beston Award by Artist Trust in 2022 and the ACS (Artists' Collecting Society) Studio Prize, 2023. He is the most recent artist-in-residence at the Vannucci Artist Residency, Umbria, Italy.

Gallery Director, Olugbemiro Arinosa shared his thoughts saying “Joseph’s unique perspective and style stand out. He captures audiences with his penchant for vibrant colours and expansive landscapes.”. He continued, “His inclusion in the TD Bank Curated Spotlight section is a testament to his impeccable talent and aligns with the gallery’s mission to highlight talented African artists in new and unfamiliar spaces”

For interviews, images, and comment, please contact: Moni Aisida,  
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Exhibition Opening Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 11 am – 6 pm Sundays are by appointment only.

Affinity

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#### NOTES TO EDITORS

Affinity Art Gallery is a modern and contemporary gallery dedicated to the promotion and celebration of African artists who are passionately sharing the African narrative with their works. The gallery functions as a beacon to educate and preserve Africa’s rich and diverse culture in a bid to inspire the next generation of young Africans.

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